

Message Text

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ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AF-08 ARA-06 EA-07 EUR-12 NEA-10 SP-02

L-03 H-01 OIC-02 AID-05 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08 FRB-03

INR-07 NSAE-00 USIA-06 TRSE-00 XMB-02 OPIC-03 CIEP-01

LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 AGRE-00 /106 W

-----212035Z 001300 /44

R 211829Z JAN 77

FM USMISSION GENEVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4687

INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ECOSOC

SUBJ: ECOSOC 25TH SESSION OF COMMISSION FOR SOCIAL
DEVELOPMENT

SUMMARY: THE FIRST WEEK OF THE 25TH SESSION OF THE
COMMISSION FOR SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT UNFOLDED QUIETLY AND
WITHOUT ANY UNEXPECTED DEVELOPMENT. DELEGATES' STATEMENTS
TO DATE HAVE BEEN NOTICEABLY DEVOID OF POLITICAL ELEMENTS
AND JUDGING BY THE MOOD TO DATE, IT APPEARS THAT THERE
WILL BE A MINIMUM OF CONFRONTATION DURING THIS SESSION.
US DELEGATION HAS CIRCULATED WIDELY ITS PROPOSED DRAFT
RESOLUTION CALLING FOR A STUDY OF THE FUTURE ROLE OF
SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE UN SYSTEM AND THERE APPEARS
TO BE WIDE-SPREAD INTEREST FOR SOME TYPE OF ACTION IN
THIS DIRECTION. END SUMMARY.

1. THE 25TH SESSION OF THE COMMISSION FOR SOCIAL
DEVELOPMENT COMMENCED WORK ON JANUARY 17 WITH ELECTION
OF OFFICERS AND ADOPTION OF 16 ITEM PROVISIONAL AGENDA.

THE BUREAU IS COMPOSED AS FOLLOWS:

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CHAIRMAN: IOAN VOICU (ROMANIA)

VICE-CHAIRMEN: MRS. MARIA-ANTOINETTA CAO PINNA (ITALY)

MRS. GLADYS POZO DE RUIZ (ECUADOR)

MRS. JEANNE MARTIN CISSE (GUINEA)

RAPPORTEUR: MIKIS SPARSIS (CYPRUS)

2. THE PROVISIONAL AGENDA AS CONTAINED IN DOCUMENT E/CN.5/527 WAS ADOPTED WITHOUT CHANGE. THE COMMISSION DECIDED IN THE INTERESTS OF ECONOMY TO DISPENSE WITH ALL SUMMARY RECORDS. AGENDA ITEMS ALLOCATED TO THE FIRST WEEK WERE ITEMS 3 "NATIONAL EXPERIENCE IN ACHIEVING FAR-REACHING SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC CHANGE," ITEM 12 "UNIFIED APPROACH TO DEVELOPMENT ANALYSIS AND PLANNING", ITEM 4 "REVIEW AND APPRAISAL OF THE IDS" AND ITEM 5 "SOCIAL AND INSTITUTIONAL REFORM AS A MEANS OF INCREASING DOMESTIC FOOD PRODUCTION."

3. AGENDA ITEM 3, NATIONAL EXPERIENCE. DEBATE ON THIS ITEM WAS RELATIVELY SHORT AND CLOSELY RESEMBLED THE DEBATE IN THE THIRD COMMITTEE AT THE 31ST GA. WESTERN DELEGATES, INCLUDING THE US, WHO INTERVENED, DEMONSTRATED THEIR LACK OF INTEREST IN THE SUBJECT BY STRESSING THAT REPORTS SUCH AS THE ONES UNDER CONSIDERATION ARE OF LIMITED USEFULNESS AND CONSTITUTE A BURDEN ON BOTH THE SECRETARIAT AND REPORTING COUNTRIES. THE USSR AND OTHER EASTERN EUROPEAN STATES SPOKE AT GREATER LENGTH ON THE SUBJECT BUT AVOIDED ANY CRITICISM OF THE US AND THE WEST IN GENERAL, OF THE TYPE INCLUDED IN THEIR GA STATEMENTS. THE DELEGATION OF POLAND WILL SUBMIT A DRAFT RESOLUTION UNDER THIS ITEM WHICH RESEMBLES RESOLUTION 31/38 OF THE 31ST GA AND WHICH CALLS FOR CREATION OF YET ANOTHER AGENDA ITEM ON THIS SUBJECT. TEXT OF RESOLUTION TRANSMITTED SEPTEL.
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4. AGENDA ITEM 12, UNIFIED APPROACH. THE WESTERN DELEGATES, UK, ITALY, US, NETHERLANDS, ALL NOTED THAT NO FURTHER GENERAL REPORTS SHOULD BE REQUESTED ON NATIONAL EXPERIENCE WITH THE UNIFIED APPROACH UNLESS THE SECRETARIAT FINDS A DIFFERENT METHOD OR DEVELOPS A SPECIFIC QUESTIONNAIRE FOR SOLICITING RELEVANT INFORMATION. MOST DELEGATES NOTED THAT RESPONSES ARE SO VARIED THAT IT IS DIFFICULT TO COME TO ANY CONCLUSIONS ON THE BASIS OF THE INFORMATION SUPPLIED. DEVELOPING COUNTRIES, MEXICO, PHILIPPINES, GUINEA AND CHILE, CONCENTRATED ON THEIR NATIONAL EXPERIENCE WITHOUT MAKING ANY SPECIFIC COMMENT OR PROPOSALS ON FURTHER UN ACTIONS. INDONESIA STRESSED ITS SUPPORT FOR THE PILOT PROJECTS ON THE PRACTICAL APPLICATION OF THE UNIFIED APPROACH AND INVITED THE UN TO UNDERTAKE A PILOT PROJECT IN INDONESIA. THE US STATEMENT EMPHASIZED THE US SUPPORT FOR PILOT PROJECTS AND NOTED THAT NO FURTHER ACTION WAS REQUIRED BY CSD AT THIS TIME IN VIEW OF ECOSOC DECISION

162 CALLING FOR REFORMULATION OF CERTAIN OF THE PILOT
PROJECTS FOR RECONSIDERATION AT THE 63RD ECOSOC.

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5. ITEM 4, REVIEW AND APPRAISAL OF THE IDS. WESTERN
EUROPEANS SPEAKING ON THE IDS NOTED GROWING DISPARITY
BETWEEN COUNTRIES DESPITE INCREASING GROWTH RATES
IN CERTAIN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES. SEVERAL SPEAKERS
CALLED FOR REORDERING OF NATIONAL PRIORITIES TO
DISTRIBUTE BENEFITS OF ECONOMIC GROWTH AND IMPROVE
DISTRIBUTION OF SERVICES. PHILIPPINES, INDONESIA
AND GUINEA REVIEWED EFFECTIVE NATIONAL EFFORTS IN RURAL
DEVELOPMENT. FINLAND NOTED VALUES IN PRODUCT OF
INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES AND SUGGESTED SOCIAL COMPONENTS
OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THESE CONFERENCES BE EXTRACTED,
CONSOLIDATED IN GUIDELINES AND CONTRIBUTED TO REVISION OF
THE NEXT INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY. US (MRS.
PICKER) EMPHASIZED NEED FOR BETTER DATA BASE FOR APP-
RAISAL, SIGNIFICANCE OF SOCIAL ASPECTS SUCH AS FAMILY
POLICY, NOTED GAINS IN HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING,
URGED HIGHER PRIORITY FOR MEETING BASIC NEEDS. US AND
OTHER COUNTRIES COMMENTED FAVORABLY ON SOCIAL REPORTING
AND SOCIAL INDICATORS; DISCUSSION OF INTEGRATION OF WOMEN
BROUGHT CONTRIBUTIONS ON PROGRESS AND CONSTRAINTS.
CYPRUS, GUINEA, US AND OTHERS SUPPORTED STATEMENT ON
BASIC NEEDS FOR CHILDREN AND NEED FOR GREATER EFFORT IN
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EXTENSION OF BASIC SERVICES. THE DELEGATE OF EGYPT, MR. KHALIFA (AUTHOR OF THE REPORT ON ADVERSE CONSEQUENCES OF AID TO SOUTH AFRICA) WAS THE ONLY SPEAKER TO MAKE REFERENCES TO POLITICAL PROBLEMS IN RELATION TO DEVELOPMENT AND TO IMPLY THAT WESTERN NATIONS WERE TO BE BLAMED FOR THE CURRENT SITUATION OF DEVELOPING COUNTRIES.

6. ITEM 5, SOCIAL AND INSTITUTIONAL REFORM AS MEANS OF INCREASING DOMESTIC FOOD PRODUCTION. SPEAKERS ON THIS ITEM WERE LIMITED TO THE NETHERLANDS, UNITED KINGDOM, PHILIPPINES, US AND USSR. THE US STATEMENT DELIVERED BY MRS. PICKER COMMENDED THE SECRETARIAT ON THE REPORT AND EMPHASIZED US DEDICATION TO FINDING SOLUTIONS TO THE PROBLEMS OF FOOD PRODUCTION AND DISTRIBUTION. NETHERLANDS, US AND PHILIPPINES ALSO COMMENDED THE SECRETARIAT FOR PRODUCING A USEFUL REPORT. THE NETHERLANDS CALLED FOR ADDITIONAL CONCRETE ACTION WITHIN THE EXISTING MEDIUM-TERM PLAN.

7. US PROPOSAL. US DELEGATION CALLED AN INFORMAL MEETING OF THE WEO GROUP TO GATHER REACTIONS TO THE PROPOSAL, WHICH WE HAD CIRCULATED WIDELY, FOR CREATION OF A GROUP OF EXPERTS TO STUDY THE FUTURE STATUS OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE UN SYSTEM. THE NETHERLANDS' DELEGATION REPORTED THAT THEY HAD BEEN DISCUSSING A SIMILAR PROPOSAL IN THE HAGUE. THE NETHERLANDS GOVERNMENT HAD GIVEN CONSIDERATION TO BRINGING TOGETHER ON AN INFORMAL BASIS A GROUP OF CONSULTANTS OR REPRESENTATIVES OF INTERESTED STATES TO DISCUSS THE QUESTION OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT. ALL WEO MEMBERS SHOWED INTEREST OF VARYING DEGREES IN THE IDEA AND STRESSED ONE POINT IN PARTICULAR. THE RESOLUTION SHOULD AVOID MAKING SPECIFIC MENTION OF ORGANIZATION OR MANAGEMENT OF THE SECRETARIAT WHICH WOULD RAISE DELICATE PROBLEMS WITH RESPECT TO THE PREROGATIVES OF THE SECRETARY GENERAL. THE RESOLUTION SHOULD EMPHASIZE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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IMPROVEMENT OF THE SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT COMPONENT IN THE UN SYSTEM WITHOUT GETTING INTO DETAILS OF AN ADMINISTRATIVE NATURE. THE WEO GROUP DECIDED THAT A DRAFTING GROUP COMPOSED OF THE US, NETHERLANDS, FINLAND, JAPAN AND ANY OTHER INTERESTED DELEGATIONS SHOULD PRODUCE A NEW DRAFT FOR INFORMAL DISCUSSION ON MONDAY, JANUARY 24. THE GROUP ALSO DECIDED THAT IT WOULD BE USEFUL TO INTRODUCE THE RESOLUTION AS SOON AS POSSIBLE PREFERABLY UNDER AGENDA ITEM 12, IN ORDER TO GIVE

THE COMMISSION SUFFICIENT TIME TO HAVE A GENERAL AIRING
OF VIEWS EARLY IN THE SESSION.CATTO

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
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Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
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TAGS: SOCI, PORG, ECOSOC, COMMISSION FOR SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT
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